

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to include headings. The specification has also been amended so that element 23 is consistently referred to as a "rod" and so that element 211 is consistently referred to as a "stub." The specification has also been amended so that the "matching cylinder" is consistently referred to by the reference numeral 432 and so that the "recess area" is consistently referred to by the reference number 43.

Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 1-10 and 12-23 would be allowable if re-written or amended to overcome the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to replace the recitation of "allowing separation" of the tape and the first forming member by a positive recitation of a step of "separating" these elements. Applicant respectfully submits that this overcomes the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of claim 1 by making it clear that the elements are actually separated.

Claim 11 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering moot the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of this claim.

With respect to claim 13, Applicant believes the rejection is intended to be directed to claim 14 inasmuch as the substance of the rejection relates to the subject

matter of claim 14, rather than claim 13. Claim 14 has been amended to describe the first mechanism as "further being arranged to separate said preformed tape from said first forming element after release of the first clamping system" as suggested by the office action. This addresses the rejection of claim 14 by clarifying that the pre-formed tape is now wound on the first forming element during winding on the second forming element.

Claim 20 has been amended to replace the recitation of "clamping devices" by a recitation of "clamping systems" for consistency with claim 14.

Claims 24 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering moot the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of these claims.

Based on these amendments, withdrawal of the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection is respectfully requested. Consequently, claims 1-10 and 12-23 are believed to be allowable.

Claims 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over, WO 01/47041. As mentioned above, claims 24 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering moot the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) or 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a).

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The pending claims are believed to be allowable and favorable office action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael J. Shea", written over a horizontal line.

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